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The grains, barley and oats, showed little effect on the quantity of straw, but a noticeable increase in seed production occurred on plants grown on the soil used (Miami silt loam).

Elemental sulphur, added as flowers, was usually toxic even in the presence of calcium, probably because of its incomplete oxidation to sulphites. Where bases are deficient, the toxicity may be due to accumulation of sulphuric acid from the complete oxidation of the sulphur.—Charles A. Shull.

British Columbia forests.—Mount Robson, British Columbia, situated at practically the present northern known limit of the continental divide, has been visited by Cooper²² and found to possess 2 climax forest types, one for each of 2 climatic zones. Up to an altitude of 1000 m. the forest is of the Pacific Coast type, with a dominance of Thuja plicata. Picea Engelmanni is next in abundance, and is followed by Abies lasiocarpa, Tsuga heterophylla, and Pseudotsuga mucronata. The undergrowth shows such truly mesophytic forms as Acer glabrum, Azaleastrum albiforum, Phegopteris Dryopteris, Clintonia uniflora, Moneses uniflora, and Pyrola uliginosa.

Above this is a subalpine zone extending up to 2000 m., with a climax forest of *Picea Engelmanni*, *Abies lasiocarpa*, and *Pinus albicaulis*. In the undergrowth *Menziesia ferruginea*, *Cornus canadensis*, and several species of *Pyrola* are conspicuous. The successions upon rock surface, talus, moraine, and shingle flat are noted, those of the two last in most detail. Upon the moraine *Dryas octopetala* and *Arctostaphylos rubra* are followed by shrubby species of *Betula* and *Salix*, leading to the third stage, which is the climax forest. A similar set of stages is found upon the shingle flat, although here, probably because of the lack of any fine soil material, the succession advances much less rapidly than upon the moraine.

While COOPER expresses regret at the few data available for this study, it will be welcomed as giving an insight into the vegetation of an almost unknown region.—Geo. D. Fuller.

Large trees.—A recent contest for two prizes of \$100 each, offered through the Journal of Heredity, 3 for photographs and data regarding the largest trees in the United States, barring conifers, resulted in photographs of 337 trees. The prize for the largest non-nut-bearing tree was won by a Platanus occidentalis near Worthington, Indiana, with a circumference, 5 ft. from the ground, of 42.25 ft., and a height of about 150 ft. The largest nut-bearing tree in the competition was a Quercus lobata on the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in San Benito County, California, with a circumference of 37.5 ft. and a height of 125 ft. The largest specimens of other species were as follows: Ulmus americana at Morgantown, West Virginia, with a circumference of 33

²² COOPER, W. S., Plant succession in the Mount Robson region, British Columbia. Plant World 19:211-238. figs. 8. 1916.

²³ Photographs of large trees. Jour. Heredity 6:407-429. 1915.

ft.; Quercus alba at Atwood, Indiana, 21 ft.; Juglans nigra at Hanover Neck, New Jersey, 24 ft.; and Liriodendron Tulipifera at Asheville, North Carolina, 34.5 ft.

The report of the results of the contest also contains other interesting data, while the value of such a competition, as pointed out by LAMB,²⁴ consists not only in promoting interest in the protection of tree individuals and in the conservation and preservation of forests, but also in affording data for the solution of problems of distribution, of growth, and of duration. In this connection he has prepared maps showing the distribution of 6 of the important species represented and the location of the best specimens reported in the contest. It is hoped that public interest in the subject will not cease with the conclusion of the contest.—Geo. D. Fuller.

American forestry.—Recent changes and improvements have made the magazine known as American Forestry valuable not only to the forester but also to the botanical teacher or student interested in trees. An excellent feature is that of devoting special attention to one particular tree species in each issue. Well written articles are given dealing with the identification, characteristics, and habits of the trees, and also with the lumber and its uses. During the first half of the current year the following species have been the subjects of special consideration: Quercus alba, Pseudotsuga Douglasii, Thuja plicata, Betula papyrifera, Ulmus americana, and Sequoia sempervireus. The excellence of the illustrations in these articles is worthy of note.

There are also, in addition to the articles of more particular interest to the professional forester, others upon more general but quite as timely topics. Among these we may note as examples a finely illustrated article upon Cupressus macrocarpa under the title of "The tree of legend and romance," in the February issue; and several dealing with forests in time of war, showing some of the devastating effects of the present European conflict. A recognition of various phases of forest and country life is seen in regular departments devoted to children, birds, ornamental and shade trees, and to wood preserving, while quite as important are the very extensive lists of current literature. Finally, as an indication of the international scope of its interests is a page of its notes and news items devoted to Canadian forestry and foresters.—Geo. D. Fuller.

A vegetational map of the United States.—Shreve²⁵ has compiled a map of the range of the principal types of vegetation in the United States, basing the boundaries of the various subdivisions upon purely vegetational criteria. The primary classes of vegetation are the well recognized ones of desert, grassland, and forest. Of these the first and last have been subdivided, but the data available for the grassland are not regarded as sufficient to afford a basis

²⁴ LAMB, W. H., Value of the contest. Jour. Heredity 6:424-429. 1915.

²⁵ SHREVE, F., A map of the vegetation of the United States. Geog. Rev. 3:119-125. 1917.